

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BRASIL 02660 051712Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0912

S E C R E T BRASILIA 2660

NODIS/STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, BR

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR ISSUE - SIMONSEN VISIT

REF: (A) BRASILIA 2619, (B) BRASILIA 2585

1. WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
ON THE DEVELOPMENT REPORTED IN REF (A).

A. WE CANNOT BE SURE WHEN, HOW AND IN WHAT FORM THE
REPORTED AUTHORIZATION WAS GIVEN BY GEISEL. FOR EXAMPLE,
IT IS POSSIBLE THAT, CONTRARY TO EARLIER INDICATIONS,
SIMONSEN HAS HAD THE AUTHORITY SINCE THE BEGINNING AND
THAT THIS IS IN FACT A GOB-WIDE EFFORT (PARA 3 OF REF B).
ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS AT LEAST EquALLY POSSIBLE THAT
SIMONSEN GOT COLD FEET ABOUT HIS FREE-LANCING AND
CONSIDERED IT NECESSARY AND PRUDENT TO OBTAIN PRESIDENTIAL
BLESSING.

B. BECAUSE OF OUR INABILITY TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT
HAS HAPPENED, IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO NOTE CAREFULLY
THE PRCISE WAY AND EVEN LANGUAGE IN WHICH SIMONSEN
EXPRESSES HIMSELF.

C. INASMUCH AS IT IS NOW ESTABLISHED THAT THERE IS AT LEAST
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PAGE 02 BRASIL 02660 051712Z

ONE BRAZILIAN OFFICIAL -- THE PRESIDENT -- WHO KNOWS
ABOUT BOTH THE SIMONSEN PURPOSE AND OUR "NON-DISCUSSION"
PROPOSAL, THE ODDS ARE STRONG THAT WE WILL NOT RECEIVE
A REPLY TO THE "NON-DISCUSSION" PROPOSAL UNTIL AFTER THE
GOB -- AT LEAST THE PRESIDENT -- HAS HAD A READ-OUT FROM
SIMONSEN ABOUT THE REACTIONS TO HIS INITIATIVE.

D. ALTHOUGH THE PRESIDENT'S INVOLVEMENT SUGGESTS THAT WE COULD USE THE SIMONSEN CHANNEL TO HIM TO PUSH FOR AN ANSWER TO THE "NON-DISCUSSION" PROPOSAL, WE STILL CONSIDER IT PRUDENT FOR US TO BE SCRUPULOUSLY CAREFUL NOT REPEAT NOT TO RAISE THAT PROPOSAL WITH SIMONSEN. IF, HOWEVER, SIMONSEN HIMSELF RAISES THE PROPOSAL OR REFERS KNOWLEGEABLY TO IT, IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL TO RESPOND IN GENERAL TERMS, INDICATING AN AWARENESS OF THE EXISTENCE OF SOME KIND OF PROPOSAL AND SAYING THAT HE UNDERSTANDS THAT WE ARE INTERESTED IN GETTING A REPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

CRIMMINS

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